Incredible Relationship with God

Everything Starts with a Relationship with God

DAY 1

Establishing an incredible relationship with God is not simply a matter of tradition, ritual, or religious activity. It's the very foundation for a transformed, meaningful, and purpose-driven life—a life that resonates far beyond outward success, social achievements, or material prosperity. For countless generations, people have sought fulfillment in many ways, yet often found themselves grappling with an unexplainable emptiness. Genuine contentment begins at the deepest level: encountering and knowing your Creator.

Many people set out to build good marriages, pursue career goals, nurture their families, and even seek health and happiness. Yet, a striking truth echoes from stories across the world: outward success is not enough. People who seemed to have it all—wealth, respect, a loving family—sometimes struggle with a persistent inner void. Tragically, there are stories of such individuals ending their own lives despite having everything the world says matters. Why? Because those achievements can't satisfy the soul's ultimate hunger: a passionate, intimate relationship with God.

The human spirit was designed for connection. Your heart longs for more than the applause of the world or the comforts of success. At the core of every ambition and desire is a longing to know and be known by your Creator. Purpose flows not from what you do, but from who you are in relationship to God. Only in knowing Him can you discover what you were truly created for.

The invitation is profound and personal. It's not about religion or performance—it's about relationship. This book will walk you through what that looks like, why it matters, and how you can experience transformation through knowing God. Whether you've never thought about this deeply, or you've been on this journey for years, there's always more to discover with God.

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

St. Augustine

Let's embark on this life-changing journey—starting with the only foundation that lasts: a deep, passionate, intimate, authentic relationship with God.

Reflection & Response

1. Where are you really with God right now?

Not where you *want* to be or *used to* be — where are you actually today?

2. What has taken God’s place at the center of your life?

What are you chasing, controlling, or clinging to that keeps you from being fully His?

3. When was the last time you felt close to God?

What was happening in your life then — and what’s changed since?

Action Step

Write down one thing that’s been standing between you and God. Say it out loud — confess it, surrender it, and ask Him to take it. Then declare: **“God, I want to know You more than anything else in this world.”**

Take a few minutes to be honest with yourself. Don’t rush. Write down what comes to mind — the first thoughts are often the truest ones.

The Real Meaning of Success

Beyond Outward Appearances

DAY 2

Success is a universally desired goal. From childhood, we're bombarded with images and messages about what it looks like to be truly successful: a high-paying career, a loving marriage, healthy children, a beautiful home, and an impressive collection of achievements. Society's definition of success is often focused on outward appearances—visible accomplishments that others can recognize and admire.

But is that real success? How do we explain the phenomenon of apparently "successful" individuals—some of whom we idolize—falling into depression, addiction, or even despair? If success is only measured by external markers, why are so many people desperate for something more?

The longing for meaning extends beyond material prosperity. True success isn't about what you own, but who you are. It's not about what's in your bank account, but what's in your heart. Real success comes from living in alignment with your purpose, walking in integrity, experiencing inner peace, and building authentic relationships—first and foremost, with God.

Success in God's eyes looks different from the world's standards. The Bible tells stories of people who had little by human reckoning, yet stood as giants of faith and significance. Their lives teach us that no amount of external achievement can replace the fulfillment that comes from a personal relationship with God.

"**For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? Mark 8:36**"

When you're grounded in your relationship with God, your perspective on success changes. You begin to measure your life not by fleeting achievements, but by lasting impact and eternal value. The joy that God gives—a deep-seated contentment that persists regardless of circumstances—becomes your truest measure of success.

The journey toward an incredible relationship with God isn't an escape from real life; it's the key to living fully. In the pages that follow, you'll be challenged to redefine success, realign your priorities, and discover your purpose—not just for your own satisfaction, but so you can make a difference in the world around you.

Success in God's Eyes — Scriptures to Reflect On

- **Joshua 1:8**
  "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. *Then you will be prosperous and successful.*"

- **Psalm 1:1–3**
  "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked... but whose delight is in the law of the Lord... Whatever he does prospers."

- **Matthew 6:33**
  "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Reflection & Response

Take a moment to slow down and think deeply. Success isn't about what you've achieved — it's about who you're becoming.

1. How do you currently define success?

What would "making it" look like for you right now — and who told you that's what success means?

2. Where have you been chasing achievement more than purpose?

Are there areas in your life where you've been striving for approval, control, or comfort instead of God's will?

3. What would success look like if you measured it the way God does?

How would your priorities shift — in your work, your marriage, your time, and your heart?

Action Step

Write down one area of your life where you've been chasing the world's definition of success.

Confess it to God out loud and declare:

"Lord, I want Your definition of success — not mine, not the world's. Teach me to measure my life by eternal impact, not temporary applause."

The Void That Only God Can Fill

DAY 3

Imagine striving for every good thing life offers, only to find that something is still missing. Perhaps you've experienced this yourself—a nagging sense of emptiness despite reaching your goals. This inner yearning—a void that escapes definition—cannot be soothed by achievements, possessions, or relationships.

This is the "God-shaped void" often described by philosophers and theologians. It's the place in your soul reserved for something eternal and infinite, something more than this world can offer. While temporary pleasures or diversions might numb its ache, only God can truly satisfy it.

People try to fill this void in many ways:

- **Career Ambitions:** Achieving one goal only to find another waiting.
- **Relationships:** Looking for love to complete you, only to face disappointment.
- **Wealth and Possessions:** Buying more in hope of increasing happiness, but finding diminishing returns.
- **Busyness and Distractions:** Filling life with activity, but missing out on what matters most.

Even the most outwardly successful encounter the haunting feeling that there must be more. The Bible affirms that this desire for "something more" is by design:

"**He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart...**" **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

God placed eternity in your heart so you would seek Him. Only when you encounter God personally does the emptiness subside—because you're finally connected to your source, your Creator, your purpose. Everything else, no matter how good, is only a shadow of the fullness found in Him.

Recognizing the void is the beginning of transformation. It invites you to exchange frustration and striving for relationship: to let God in, to let Him satisfy your soul, and to let His love define who you are. As you move through this workbook, consider: **What have you been trying to fill that empty place with? Would you allow God to fill it instead?**

Reflection & Response

Take a deep breath. Be honest about the ache you sometimes feel inside — the one success, people, or possessions can't quite touch.

1. What are you currently using to fill the empty space in your heart?

Be real — name the things you keep turning to for comfort, distraction, or validation.

2. When was the last time you felt completely satisfied and at peace?

What was different about that moment — and where was God in it?

3. What would it look like to let God fill that void instead?

What part of your heart do you need to open up to Him today?

Action Step

Write down one thing you've been using to fill the void — and surrender it.

Say out loud:

"God, I've been trying to fill my life with things that can't satisfy. I give You this space. Fill me with Your presence instead."

Know Your Creator

Encountering God Personally

DAY 4

Before you can pursue your purpose or experience lasting fulfillment, you must first encounter your Creator. Knowing *about* God is not the same as truly knowing Him. For many, God can feel like a distant concept—someone talked about in sermons, depicted in art, or referenced in tradition. Yet, the heart of Christianity is intensely personal: God wants a relationship with you.

The Bible is a record of God pursuing people, inviting them closer, revealing His character, and desiring their hearts. From the beginning, He created humanity not to obey from a distance, but to walk with Him in intimacy and trust.

Personal encounters with God are not reserved for a select few. Every person—regardless of background or credentials—is invited to know God personally. This means:

- Speaking with Him honestly, as you would a trusted friend.
- Listening for His voice in everyday life.
- Sensing His presence, peace, and guidance in your spirit.
- Receiving His love and allowing it to transform you.

Why is this so critical? Because only your Creator knows your purpose. Only He can speak to your deepest questions and needs. The more you know God, the more you become your truest self.

"Hard to know what you are created for until you meet and get to know your creator."

It’s like trying to assemble a complex invention without its manual. The designer knows every detail, every intended function. Likewise, God designed you with intention and love. He knows your potential and your path. The starting point for a life that matters—a life of peace, joy, and purpose—is encountering God and choosing relationship with Him.

Take a moment, even now, to quiet your heart. Ask God to reveal Himself to you. He promises that when you seek Him, you will find Him when you seek him with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

Reflection & Response

Take time to slow down.You were made to know your Creator — not just know *about* Him.

1. How would you describe your current relationship with God?

Is it distant, casual, disciplined, or intimate? Be brutally honest with yourself.

2. What has kept you from experiencing God personally?

Is it distraction, disappointment, doubt, or pride? Write it down and face it head-on.

3. What would change in your life if you truly knew God as Father and Friend?

Imagine walking through your day fully aware of His presence.

Action Step

Find a quiet place and pray this aloud:

“God, I don’t just want to know about You — I want to know You. Reveal Yourself to me. Teach me to hear Your voice and walk with You daily.”

Write down anything you sense, feel, or hear in your spirit.

Moving From Knowing About God to Truly Knowing Him

DAY 5

One of the most drastic shifts in any faith journey happens when you move from simply knowing *about* God to genuinely knowing Him. It's an evolution that changes everything—from the way you see yourself, to the way you interact with the world around you.

Think about the difference between knowing facts about a celebrity and actually being one of their friends. Reading someone's biography, following their posts, and studying their interviews allows you to gather information, maybe even feel inspired. But real relationship is built through time spent together, honest conversation, shared experiences, and mutual trust. The same principle applies in your journey with God.

Many people grow up learning about God: His power, His stories, His commandments. But a secondhand knowledge will not transform your life. Transformation comes from encounter—when you let God move from the pages of a book into your daily reality. This means:

- Praying as an ongoing conversation, not a memorized speech.
- Listening for God's response in your spirit or through His word.
- Allowing your relationship with Him to influence your decisions, your reactions, your priorities.

The Bible highlights what this relationship looks like:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

To "hear His voice" means you can recognize God's gentle leading, His wisdom, and His love. This is not reserved only for spiritual leaders or mystics—it's for everyone who wants to follow Jesus. In John 17:3, Jesus makes it plain:

"**Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.**" **John 17:3**

Eternal life is not just a future expectation; it's a present relationship. God invites you to move beyond knowledge and into friendship, intimacy, and partnership. This is where freedom, confidence, and purpose are born.

In making this shift, you lay the first solid stone in the foundation of a transformed life. Commit to knowing God personally—your life will never be the same.

The Danger of Knowing *About* God Without Knowing Him

Jesus gave a sobering warning in Matthew 7:21–23:

> **“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”**

This passage reveals one of the most tragic realities of the Christian life: it’s possible to *do* things for God without ever truly *knowing* Him. These people performed miracles, preached, and served—but Jesus said, “I never knew you.”

The word “knew” here is deeply relational. It’s not about information; it’s about intimacy. Jesus isn’t impressed by activity—He’s moved by relationship. Our obedience, service, and gifts are powerful, but they must flow from genuine connection with Him.

You can work in ministry, quote Scripture, and even lead others to Christ—yet still miss the heart of knowing Him personally. God doesn’t want performers; He wants partners. He’s not after perfection; He’s after proximity.

The Call to Intimacy

To know God is to walk with Him daily—to let His Spirit speak, convict, comfort, and guide. It’s to invite Him into every part of your life: your work, your marriage, your goals, and your struggles.

The Apostle Paul captured it best:

> **“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”**
> **— *Philippians 3:10***

That kind of knowing transforms us from the inside out. It shifts our priorities, redefines success, and births genuine fruit that proves we are His.

Reflection & Response

This is where belief becomes relationship — when head knowledge turns into heart connection.

1. Have you been settling for knowing *about* God instead of truly knowing Him?

Be honest — is your relationship built on routine, information, or actual encounter?

2. What would it look like if you treated God like a close friend instead of a distant figure?

How would that change your prayer life, your confidence, your daily conversations?

3. Can you remember a time when you truly *felt* God's presence?

What was different about you in that moment — and how can you return to that space again?

Action Step

Find ten quiet minutes today.

Turn off distractions and simply say:

"God, I want to know You — not just facts about You. Speak to me, teach me, and walk with me."

Then sit in silence and listen. Write down whatever comes to your heart.

My Sheep Hear My Voice

Understanding John 17:3 | DAY 6

In the Christian faith, hearing God's voice is both a privilege and a birthright. But what does it mean in practical terms? Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). This imagery of sheep and shepherd is packed with relational depth and trust.

Sheep know the distinct voice of their shepherd. They trust him, follow him to good pastures, and find safety in his guidance. The shepherd knows each sheep personally—by name, by tendency, by weakness. Similarly, God calls us into a relationship where we not only recognize His voice, but also experience the security of being fully known by Him.

Jesus expands on this in John 17:3:

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

Intimacy With God Produces Fruit

John 17:3 says, *"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."*

The word *know* here is the Greek word **ginosko**, which speaks of deep, personal, and experiential knowledge—not just intellectual awareness. It's the same word used in Genesis 4:1: *"Now Adam knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain."* This kind of knowing speaks of intimacy that results in fruit.

When Adam *knew* Eve, the result was conception and the birth of a son. In the same way, true intimacy with God produces fruit in our lives. If our relationship with God is only head knowledge—facts about Him—we may admire Him, but we won't bear His likeness.

Just as children bear the DNA and resemblance of their parents, intimacy with God causes us to carry His spiritual DNA. His Spirit produces fruit in us that looks like Him.

Jesus said, *"You will recognize them by their fruits"* (Matthew 7:16). Paul wrote, *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control"* (Galatians 5:22–23).

Intimacy with God isn't proven by what we say we believe, but by what is conceived in us and brought forth through us. James reminds us, *"Faith without works is dead"* (James 2:26). Real faith—born of intimacy with Him—always produces life and action that looks like Him.

I hear lots of men tell me about their so called "great" relationship with God, but I don't see many men get pregnant with His purpose and calling and even fewer give birth to their God given destinies.

It's not enough to simply *know about* God. As Jesus warned in Matthew 7:21–23, there will be those who did works in His name but never truly *knew* Him. The evidence of intimacy with God is fruit: transformed character, multiplied disciples, and His purposes birthed through our lives.

When we are truly intimate with God, His Spirit plants His purposes in us. And like a child growing in the womb, those purposes grow until they are birthed into the world, carrying His likeness and reflecting His glory.

Eternal life is not about checking off religious boxes. It's about relationship—knowing God intimately, personally, daily. This kind of knowledge isn't just intellectual; it's experiential. To "hear His voice" is to:

- Sense His guidance when making decisions.
- Feel His peace or conviction in your heart.
- Recognize His encouragement through Scripture or even in the quiet moments.

Each relationship is unique. God wants to speak to you in ways tailored to your personality, needs, and circumstances. You might hear Him through a verse that suddenly "jumps out," a sense of peace about a tough choice, or quiet nudges that prompt you to act with love and courage.

Why does this principle matter so much? Because all the information about God in the world cannot substitute for the real-time adventure of knowing Him—walking with Him, discovering His love, and learning to trust Him. When you learn to hear His voice, you're able to follow His lead into the life you were created to live.

"When you pray, rather let your heart be without words than your words be without heart."

John Bunyan

Let Jesus' words challenge you: What would it look like if your life was defined by intimacy with God—where "knowing Him" is your true definition of success?

Reflection & Response

Hearing God’s voice isn’t mystical — it’s relational. It’s about learning to recognize the Shepherd who already knows your name.

1. When was the last time you clearly sensed God speaking to you?

Was it through Scripture, conviction, peace, or a quiet nudge? What did He say — and did you obey?

2. Are you producing fruit that proves intimacy with God?

If someone observed your life for a week, what evidence would they see that you truly know Him?

3. What is competing with God’s voice in your life right now?

Identify the noise, distractions, or influences that drown Him out.

Action Step

Pray this aloud:

“Father, I want to know You deeply — not just with my mind, but with my heart. Teach me to hear Your voice, follow Your lead, and bear fruit that reflects You.”

Write down any conviction, promise, or word that comes to your spirit in the quiet that follows.

The First Step

Personal Relationship as the Foundation

DAY 7

When it comes to success in any area of life, it's tempting to focus on *doing*—accomplishing goals, improving habits, fixing behaviors. Yet, real transformation is rooted in *being*—in who you are and who you are becoming.

Personal relationship isn't about perfection. It's about **permission**—giving God access to your life, your hopes, your struggles, and your dreams. It's about coming as you are and welcoming God to do what only He can do: transform you from the inside out.

> **"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine."**
> **— *John 15:4***

> **"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."**
> **— *Philippians 2:13***

When God has it all, you get it all.

Every path toward growth, purpose, and impact will face challenges. But when foundationally anchored in a vibrant relationship with God, you are equipped not only to overcome—but to thrive.

> **"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."**
> **— *Matthew 6:33***

> **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."**
> **— *Proverbs 3:5–6***

Because every transformation starts with relationship, let this be your starting line. As you move forward, determine to make intimacy with God your number one priority. It remains the most important investment you'll ever make.

> **"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."**
> **— *John 15:5***

That's why, as a pastor and coach, my very first step is always leading men into a **personal, passionate, intimate relationship with God.**

Why? Because every other pillar of personal development, leadership, and success must rest on a foundation that will not crack under pressure. If you build your life on your own abilities, strategies, or even your best intentions, you'll reach a limit. But when you build on a relationship with God, you tap into a source of wisdom, strength, and purpose that never runs dry.

> **"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain."**
> **— *Psalm 127:1***

Reflection &

Response

Everything strong in your life must be built on something stronger than you. This is the foundation.

1. What have you been building your life on?

Is it career, comfort, control, or achievement—or is it truly your relationship with God?

2. When you face pressure or loss, what cracks first?

What does that reveal about where your foundation actually lies?

3. What would change if you gave God full access to every area of your life?

Be honest about what you still keep off-limits.

Action Step

Today, make a declaration out loud:**“God, I give You permission to lead, transform, and rebuild me from the inside out. Be the foundation of everything I am and everything I do.”**
Write down one area of your life where you will intentionally invite Him in this week.

Biblical Examples of Intimate Relationships with God

DAY 8

The Bible is more than a collection of ancient stories; it's a showcase of lives transformed through relationship with God. Within its pages, men and women encounter God in ways that set them apart and change the course of history. Their experiences give us powerful models and encouragement for our own relationship with God. Let's explore a few of these inspiring figures:

Enoch | Genesis says, "Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away." Enoch's life wasn't extraordinary for wealth or achievement, but for his closeness to God—a friendship so real God took him directly to heaven.

Abraham | Called the "friend of God," Abraham's relationship was marked by trust and conversation. He believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible, showing us how faith and relationship go hand-in-hand.

Moses | Scripture describes Moses as someone to whom God spoke "face to face, as one speaks to a friend." Moses' intimacy gave him courage to lead and intercede for millions, proving that close relationship with God fuels extraordinary leadership.

David | David, the poet-king, wrote countless psalms expressing the depths of his struggles and joys with God. His life was far from perfect, yet his honest pursuit of God made him "a man after God's own heart."

Paul | The apostle Paul encountered Jesus dramatically, then continually referred to his relationship with Christ as the source of his identity, strength, and purpose—even amid suffering.

John | John describes himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." His writings overflow with the knowledge of God's love, calling believers to join in this same closeness.

These men were not superhumans—they were people who dared to draw near to God, listen for His voice, and obey His leading. Their lives remind us that intimacy with God is not limited by our past, our qualifications, or our circumstances.

"**Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.**" James 4:8

Their stories invite us to pursue a walk with God just as real, just as powerful. As you walk through this book, let these lives encourage you to seek a relationship with God above all else.

Lessons and Inspiration Drawn from Their Lives

What set these biblical heroes apart was not their superiority—it was their intimacy with God. Even when they stumbled, their hearts remained oriented toward Him. The lessons from their lives fuel our courage to seek God more deeply, regardless of our circumstances.

1. Intimacy Over Perfection
All of these figures had shortcomings. David sinned greatly, Paul once persecuted believers, Moses had doubts, and Abraham sometimes acted out of fear. Despite their flaws, God delighted in their honest pursuit.

2. Faith and Relationship Go Together
Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15:6). Faith is more than agreeing with doctrine; it's trusting God's character and promises, even when life doesn't make sense.

3. Obedience Out of Relationship, Not Obligation
When Moses received God's instructions, it was in the context of friendship and trust. Their obedience was not robotic but relational—motivated by love, not mere duty.

4. Wholeheartedness Matters
Joshua 14:8 describes serving the Lord with all your heart. Heritage and blessing flow from wholehearted surrender, not half-hearted effort.

5. Relationship Produces Fruit
The lives of these heroes "sowed seeds" that continue to bear fruit. Demonstrating that what you invest in your relationship with God impacts generations to come.

Seeds produce after themselves. You reap what you sow.

6. God's Love is for Everyone
Paul, once an outsider and enemy, became God's messenger because God's invitation is open to all who seek Him.

These lives demonstrate that God does not seek perfection before relationship. He desires honesty, humility, courage, and trust. Their stories are not just ancient tales—they're divine invitations for us to walk closely with God, receive His strength, and make an eternal difference.

As you reflect on these examples, consider: What step can you take today to draw nearer to God? The same God who was faithful then is faithful now—and He wants to meet you where you are.

Reflection & Response

The same God who walked with Enoch, spoke to Moses, and called David “a man after My own heart” wants to walk and speak with you too.

1. Which of these biblical figures do you most identify with right now?

Is it Enoch’s quiet faithfulness, David’s raw honesty, or Paul’s radical transformation? Why?

2. What holds you back from pursuing the same level of intimacy with God?

Be honest—fear, shame, distraction, or comfort? Name it.

3. What fruit would you want your relationship with God to produce in your life and family?

Picture what it would look like if you fully walked with Him.

Action Step

Take five minutes today to read one of these men’s stories—Genesis 5 (Enoch), Exodus 33 (Moses), or Psalm 63 (David). Ask God: “Lord, show me how You want to walk with me like You walked with them.” Then write down whatever He reveals to you.

Joshua 14:8

Wholehearted Service and Inheritance

DAY 9

Joshua 14:8 recounts the words of Caleb, one of Israel's greatest warriors and men of faith: "my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear, but I followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly." Caleb was not content with lukewarm devotion. He served God passionately, trusting Him even when others doubted.

Caleb's reward was significant. He received lands promised to him decades before—a picture of inheritance reserved for those who walk closely and faithfully with God. This isn't just about physical land; it's a symbol of spiritual legacy, fulfillment, and blessing that flows from wholehearted relationship.

What does "wholehearted" mean? It's:

- Holding nothing back from God.
- Serving not with divided loyalties, but with undivided love.
- Refusing to water down your passion out of fear, pressure, or comfort.

Wholeheartedness leads to inheritance—not just in the next life, but in your life now. You experience greater clarity, deeper peace, stronger relationships, and the joy of living with purpose. It's about receiving "all" that God has for you because you've given "all" of yourself to Him.

Only fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things He has done for you. 1 Samuel 12:24

Caleb's example challenges us: Will you follow God wholeheartedly? The blessings of an incredible relationship with God—confidence, guidance, peace, provision—await those who choose to serve Him with undivided devotion.

The call is clear: half-heartedness may survive, but wholeheartedness *thrives*. As you walk forward in your relationship with God, ask Him to make you bold, passionate, and wholeheartedly committed—just as Caleb was.

Reflection & Response

Half-hearted faith leads to half-lived lives. Caleb’s story reminds us that the people who inherit God’s best are the ones who refuse to hold back.

1. Where in your life have you been serving God with half your heart?

Is there an area where fear, fatigue, or comfort has dulled your passion? Name it.

2. What would wholehearted devotion look like for you in this season?

Think practically—your time, your focus, your obedience, your generosity.

3. What “inheritance” do you believe God is holding for you on the other side of full surrender?

It could be peace, purpose, breakthrough, or influence.

Action Step

Pray this aloud:**“God, make me wholehearted. Strip away divided motives and restore my fire to follow You fully. I don’t want to survive—I want to thrive in everything You’ve promised.”**

Then write down one bold act of obedience you’ll take this week that reflects full devotion.

What an Incredible Relationship with God Looks Like

DAY 10

No two relationships are alike, and this is especially true when it comes to walking with God. However, there are unmistakable signs and qualities that mark a passionate and intimate relationship with Him—qualities that anyone can pursue and experience in their own journey.

1. **Ongoing Conversation**

An incredible relationship with God is marked by regular, genuine communication. It is an *ongoing, two-way conversation*. We bring Him our hopes, fears, gratitude, and plans—and then we **wait and listen** for His voice and His concerns, letting His heart shape ours (1 Thessalonians 5:17; John 10:27).

That listening intimacy becomes **knowing** in the biblical sense—*ginosko* (as noted earlier)—personal, experiential union (John 17:3). Like when "Adam **knew** Eve" and life was conceived (Genesis 4:1), intimacy with God conceives His purposes in us. The evidence is **fruit** that looks like Him: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22–23; cf. Matthew 7:16).

From intimacy flows **obedience born of love**—not legalism, but alignment with His will (John 14:15; James 2:17). And it's all sustained by **abiding**: remaining attached to the Vine so His life continually flows through us (John 15:4–5). Talk with Him, listen for Him, align with Him—and fruit follows.

2. Deep Peace and Security

No matter what swirls around you, there's a peace that anchors your soul. This peace isn't circumstantial; it flows from trusting a loving Father who attends to every detail of your life. Jesus promised, *"In me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33). As we fix our minds on Him, He steadies us: *"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."* (Isaiah 26:3).

This peace is not passive—it guards. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God... will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6–7). Like the disciples in the boat, we learn that the presence of Jesus is greater than the size of the storm: He can speak, *"Peace, be still,"* and calm what rages within and without (Mark 4:35–41).

Practically, we cultivate this steadfast peace by **casting our cares** on Him (1 Peter 5:7), **abiding** in His presence (John 15:4–5), **letting Christ's peace rule** in our hearts (Colossians 3:15), and **choosing gratitude** in all things (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18). As we trust, His peace becomes the quiet strength beneath our feet—an anchor that holds when the winds rise (Psalm 23; Romans 15:13; Matthew 6:25–34).

3. Desire for God's Presence

An incredible relationship with God isn't just about believing in Him—it's about *delighting* in being with Him. Worship, prayer, and quiet reflection stop feeling like religious duties and start becoming treasured encounters. The psalmist captures it well: *"In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore"* (Psalm 16:11).

Like previously mentioned with *ginosko*—the intimate knowing of God—this desire grows from relationship, not obligation. David longed for God's presence above all else: *"One thing have I asked of the Lord... that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple"* (Psalm 27:4).

This hunger for His presence reorders our priorities. We begin to seek Him first (Matthew 6:33), to long for His courts more than worldly gain (Psalm 84:10), and to echo Moses' cry, *"If your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here"* (Exodus 33:15). True intimacy with God creates a holy longing: not just to believe, but to *abide*—**to live in His presence as our greatest treasure.**

4. Growing Alignment: Spirit, Soul, and Body

An intimate walk with God brings your entire being—spirit, soul (mind, will, emotions), and body—into greater harmony. You become more self-aware, convicted of harmful patterns, and empowered to make healthy changes.

5. Fruitfulness and Love

The closer you walk with God, the more His love overflows into the lives of others. Your attitudes, words, and actions increasingly reflect the heart and character of Jesus.

Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. Psalm 34:5

6. Confidence and Adventure

Friendship with God brings boldness to step out in faith. Life becomes an adventure, not a burden—you trust Him to open doors, provide, and guide in new ways.

The ultimate sign of an incredible relationship is transformation. You become more like Jesus—not out of effort, but as a result of simply being with Him. This is available to anyone, regardless of past mistakes or current struggles.

Reflection & Response

An incredible relationship with God doesn't make you perfect—it makes you alive. It transforms ordinary men into walking evidence of God's presence and power.

1. Which of these six qualities do you desire most right now—ongoing conversation, deep peace, desire for His presence, alignment, fruitfulness, or confidence?

Why that one? What's missing that you long to see restored or strengthened?

2. What habits or distractions have been dulling your intimacy with God?

Be brutally honest—what's getting more of your attention than He is?

3. How would your family, work, and relationships change if you truly walked with God like Moses or David did?

Write what that version of you would look and sound like.

Action Step

Take fifteen minutes this week to be alone with God—no music, no phone, no agenda. Pray this aloud:**"Lord, teach me to walk with You, talk with You, and live from Your presence. I want my life to show what an incredible relationship with You looks like."** Then write down what you sense He's saying to you.

Spirit, Soul, and Body Alignment

DAY 11

One of the most powerful results of intimacy with God is the alignment of spirit, soul, and body. Many people live with internal conflict—pulled in different directions by habits, thoughts, emotions, or physical cravings. An incredible relationship with God brings healing, order, and unity to every part of your being.

Understanding the Three Parts

- **Spirit**: The innermost part of you, designed to connect with God.
- **Soul**: Your mind, will, and emotions—where you process thoughts, make choices, and experience feelings.
- **Body**: The physical vessel that allows you to interact with the world.

Without God, these dimensions can easily fall out of sync. The soul may be anxious even when the body is healthy; the body may crave things that harm the soul; the spirit may hunger for God while the mind is distracted.

God's Desire: Alignment and Wholeness. God wants to bring harmony among all three parts so you can live vibrantly and purposefully. The Holy Spirit, living within, transforms your desires, renews your thoughts, and empowers your body for good.

Alignment looks like:

- Internal peace, even under pressure.
- Wise stewardship of your body, mind, and emotions.
- The ability to hear and respond to God's voice amid life's noise.

May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 This holistic transformation unlocks true joy, strength, and resilience. It moves you from fighting yourself to cooperating with God's purposes. The journey isn't about achieving perfection, but about learning to surrender every part of yourself—spirit, soul, and body—to God's restoring love.

As you continue on this path, trust that God wants to bring you into ever-deeper wholeness. Yield each aspect of your being to Him. He's faithful to complete the good work He began in you.

Reflection & Response

When your spirit, soul, and body move in different directions, life feels chaotic. But when they come into alignment under God’s authority, clarity, peace, and strength return.

1. Which part of you feels most out of alignment right now—your spirit, your soul, or your body?

Describe what that imbalance looks like in daily life.

2. What daily habit or thought pattern keeps pulling you out of spiritual alignment?

Be honest—what needs to be surrendered or renewed?

3. How would your life change if every part of you—spirit, soul, and body—was fully surrendered to God’s leadership?

Write out what wholeness would look like for you.

Action Step

Pray this aloud:**“Father, bring my spirit, soul, and body into alignment with You. Heal what’s divided in me. Teach me to live whole, healthy, and fully surrendered.”**
Then take one tangible step this week to care for your spirit (prayer or Scripture), your soul (rest or journaling), and your body (exercise or clean nutrition).

Obstacles to Intimacy with God

DAY 12

If relationship with God is so powerful and satisfying, why do so many struggle to experience it? The answer is simple, yet profound: there are real obstacles—internal and external—that hinder intimacy with God. Recognizing and addressing these blockers is vital for anyone who wants to grow closer to God.

Common Struggles and Misconceptions

1. Guilt and Shame

Many carry shame from past mistakes, believing that they need to "fix themselves" before God can love them. This is a lie—God's grace is precisely for the broken and imperfect.

2. Fear of Disappointment

Some fear that if they seek God sincerely and don't "feel" anything, they'll be let down. Remember, relationship is built over time. God is always present, even when emotions fluctuate.

3. Distraction and Busyness

Life is fast-paced, and it's easy to crowd out time with God. Technology, work, and even good activities can compete for our attention and dull our spiritual hunger.

4. Religious Mindset

It's possible to become so wrapped up in rituals, rules, and performance that we miss the heart of relationship. Checking boxes is not a substitute for authentic connection.

5. Doubt and Unbelief

Questions and doubts are part of every faith journey. The danger is letting them create distance rather than drawing near to God with honesty.

Honest Self-Assessment

God is not put off by your struggles. In fact, He invites you to bring every challenge into the light. The psalms are filled with raw, honest emotion—yet David is called a man after God's own heart because he kept returning to God, even in pain.

God doesn't want something from us, He simply wants us. C.S. Lewis

Growth begins when you name your obstacles and choose to seek God anyway. Every relationship faces resistance at times. What matters is persistence and openness to God's love.

As you read on, ask yourself: What's getting in the way of greater intimacy with God? Are you willing to let Him address these obstacles with truth and grace?

Reflection & Response

Every man faces resistance when it comes to walking closely with God. The question isn't whether you have obstacles—it's whether you're willing to confront them.

1. Which of these obstacles do you wrestle with most—guilt, fear, distraction, performance, or doubt?

Be specific. What's been holding you back from deeper relationship?

2. How have these barriers shaped the way you see God?

Do you picture Him as distant, disappointed, or unreachable? Write honestly about it.

3. What truth from God's Word challenges those lies?

Find one scripture that speaks directly against the obstacle you listed above. Write it down.

Action Step Pray this aloud:

"Father, I bring You every obstacle—my guilt, my fear, my distractions, my doubts. I surrender them all. Replace my lies with Your truth and draw me close again."

Then set aside one intentional time this week—without phone, noise, or pressure—to simply be still with God. Let Him meet you where you are.

God's Provision Through Relationship

DAY 13

G**od never calls you to intimacy without also providing everything you need for the journey.** In 2 Peter 1:1-9, the apostle Peter explains that God's "divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him." This is extraordinary—God Himself supplies all you require.

What Has God Provided?

- **Forgiveness and Acceptance:** No past failure can separate you from His love. In Christ, you are fully accepted and forgiven, allowing you to approach God boldly.
- **The Holy Spirit:** God's own presence lives within you, guiding, comforting, and transforming from the inside out.
- **Wisdom and Understanding:** God's word and His Spirit impart insight for every challenge you face.
- **Strength to Overcome:** God gives you power to resist temptation and grow in character.
- **Purpose and Calling:** You are invited to participate in God's work in the world.
- **Community:** God connects you to others for encouragement, correction, and companionship.

2 Peter 1:5-8 spells out a process: add to your faith goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. The seeds you sow—whether faith, kindness, or self-discipline—produce a harvest of transformation.

"For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:8

Seeds Produce After Themselves

The principle of sowing and reaping is woven throughout creation—"seeds produce after themselves." What you invest in intimacy with God will yield a rich harvest—peace, purpose, fruitfulness, and joy.

The promise is clear: God's provision for relationship is complete. When you seek Him first, everything else falls into place—not just spiritually, but in every area of life. Trust Him to meet you, guide you, and provide for your every need.

Reflection & Response

God doesn’t invite you into relationship and then leave you empty-handed. Everything you need—wisdom, strength, forgiveness, provision, direction—is already yours in Him.

1. Which of God’s provisions do you rely on the least right now—His forgiveness, His wisdom, His strength, or His Spirit?

Be honest. Where do you still try to do it on your own?

2. How have you seen God provide in your life when you’ve chosen to trust Him fully?

Write down one story—a moment that reminds you He’s faithful.

3. What seed are you sowing today that will bear fruit later?

Your words, your time, your habits—all plant something. What kind of harvest do you want?

Action Step Pray this aloud:

“Lord, thank You for providing everything I need for life and godliness. I surrender the areas I’ve been trying to control. Help me sow seeds of faith, discipline, and love that reflect You.”

Then take one concrete step this week—whether it’s forgiving someone, giving generously, or carving out time in prayer—to act on what God has already supplied.

Practical Steps to Develop Intimacy

DAY 14

Cultivating Intimacy

The desire for intimacy with God is the start; transformation comes through daily disciplines—simple practices that cultivate your relationship and invite God into every part of your life. These aren't rigid rules; they're avenues to encounter and delight in God.

Just like we build intimacy with our wives, intimacy with God requires time, attention, and intentionality.
When we said *"I do"* at the altar, it wasn't the end of the relationship—it was the beginning. We didn't kiss once and then live separate lives; we chose daily connection. We learned to communicate, to pursue, to forgive, and to grow closer over time.

The same is true with God. Salvation—the moment we say *"yes"* to Jesus—is not the finish line; it's the starting point. Intimacy doesn't happen automatically. It's cultivated through consistent pursuit. The more you put in, the more you receive.

A thriving relationship with God is built through spiritual disciplines—prayer, worship, reading His Word, fasting, obedience, and quiet reflection. These aren't religious boxes to check; they're the rhythms that keep your heart close to His. If you want depth, you have to dig. If you want fire, you have to feed it. If you want intimacy, you have to invest.

1. Prayer: Honest Conversation - Start and end your day with God—not as a checkbox, but as conversation. Share your heart, listen for His response, and thank Him for His presence.

2. **Worship: Focus and Surrender -** Worship isn't just music; it's how you turn your attention to God in awe and trust. Sing, write, meditate, or simply sit quietly in His presence.

3. Bible Study: Know His Heart - God's Word reveals His character, promises, and guidance. Read and meditate on Scripture daily, letting it shape your perspective and actions.

4. Listening: Attentiveness to God's Voice - After speaking, make room for silence. Ask God to speak, and listen—in your spirit, through Scripture, and in everyday moments.

5. Community: Spiritual Companionship - Walk with others. Share, pray, encourage, and grow together. God uses community to sharpen, strengthen, and comfort you.

Choose faith by trusting God's promises, even in uncertainty. Practice surrender by yielding your plans to Him. Pursue joy by recalling His goodness and choosing gratitude daily.

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." James 4:8 These disciplines are not burdens—they're investments in the relationship that will shape your destiny. Begin with small, consistent steps. You'll find God meeting you with more love, wisdom, and power than you ever expected.

Reflection & Response

Intimacy with God isn't automatic—it's cultivated through discipline, desire, and consistency. The question is: are you putting in the work to grow it?

1. Which of these disciplines—prayer, worship, Bible study, listening, or community—needs the most attention in your life right now?

Why is that area hard for you to stay consistent in?

2. When have you most clearly felt connected to God?

What habits, people, or environments helped create that space for intimacy?

3. What's one small step you can take this week to deepen your relationship with God?

Be specific—set a time, place, or action that will move you closer.

Action Step: Write this down somewhere you'll see it often:

"The more I invest in my relationship with God, the more of His presence, peace, and power I experience."

Then act on it. Start one daily rhythm that puts you face-to-face with God—not as religion, but as relationship.

My Journey to Knowing God

DAY 15

Meeting God for Myself

Every man has a moment when he looks in the mirror and realizes that something's missing — that the life he's living isn't the life he was made for. For me, that moment came in my early twenties, long before I knew who I was or who God really was.

I grew up in Houston, Texas, in a rough neighborhood off Gulf Bank. My mom had three kids from three different men — all of them broken, all of them fighting their own demons. My dad was deep in crime and addiction. He dealt drugs, fought dogs and chickens, and lived by the streets. Chaos was our normal.

We weren't bad people; we were just lost. We didn't know God.
There were glimpses — a friend would invite us to church now and then — but it never stuck. I didn't hate God; I just didn't know Him.

By nineteen, I was chasing success. I moved to Las Vegas, got my real estate license, and started making money. Later, I came back to Texas and launched a few businesses. I was driven, hungry, and successful by the world's standards — but empty on the inside. I had everything I thought I wanted, yet something inside of me still ached.

Then one night, flipping through late-night TV, I came across a commercial for a book called *The Power of Living*. It was simple — stories of real people who met Jesus and had their lives changed. There were no gold chairs, no showmanship, no "give to get" sermons — just honest stories of transformation. I ordered the book.

A few weeks later, I got another package in the mail — a small paperback copy of the New Testament. I didn't even know what "New Testament" meant, but I decided to read it anyway. And when I did, I couldn't stop. When I finished, I prayed a simple prayer — no script, no preacher, just me and God:

"God, You're either the biggest lie ever told, or You're real.
And if You're real, You can speak to me Yourself.
I don't need a preacher or a man to convince me."

Weeks went by. Then one morning, as I was pouring a glass of milk, I suddenly couldn't lift the jug. My arms froze. And then I heard a voice — not in my head, but deep in my spirit.

"Dustin, you can do nothing without Me."

I froze. Then the voice said again, **“You can’t even bend the tip of your pinky without Me.”**

In that moment, I was undone. My knees shook. Sweat poured down my face. I couldn’t move. It was the first time I realized — I wasn’t in control. God was real.

I jumped in my car and drove to the first church I could find — half-built, dust everywhere. I found a pastor and told him, “I need to talk to you. Something’s happening to me.”

He sat me down, and before I could finish my sentence, I started to weep — uncontrollably, from the depths of my soul. I couldn’t stop. When I finally caught my breath, I looked at him and said, “What’s happening to me?”

He pointed his finger and said, **“God’s cleaning you out.”**

And He did. I walked into that office one man, and I walked out another.
That day, I was born again.

Life After Jesus

Since that day, my life has never been the same. I didn’t just get “religious” — I got *transformed.* God didn’t make me perfect, but He made me new. He took the same fire that used to burn for the world and turned it into a passion to see men’s lives changed.

My father, the man who once dealt drugs and lived for chaos, gave his life to Jesus. I got to lead him to the Lord and watch him become a brand-new man. My mother got saved and broke generational curses that had haunted our family for decades. My brother, cousins, friends, employees — all started to meet Jesus through the story of what God had done in me.

I tell people, when I got saved, everyone around me had to join the witness protection program because I wouldn’t stop witnessing. I didn’t know the right scriptures or how to preach — I just told people about Jesus.

And over twenty years later, I’m still doing it.

I’ve been blessed to pastor, preach, and lead men all over the world — helping them find what I found: not religion, not rules, but a real, living relationship with God.

I’m married to my best friend, Monica. I have kids who love God. And I get to wake up every day doing what I was created to do — stirring hearts toward a holy collision with their divine purpose.

If God can reach a broken, stubborn, prideful kid from Gulf Bank — He can reach *you.* And not only can He... He *wants to.*

Next Steps

Responding to God’s Invitation

DAY 16

Having read this book, you may feel stirred, challenged, or inspired. The invitation is clear: God wants a real, passionate, and intimate relationship with you. Regardless of your past, background, or current struggles, it's never too late to take the first (or next) step toward Him.

How to Begin

1. **Open Your Heart** – Don't wait until you feel worthy or ready. Come as you are. God loves you as you are and wants to meet you there.
2. **Pray Honestly** – Use your own words or the simple prayer below. Talk to God about your fears, hopes, and the desire for relationship.
3. **Believe the Good News** – Trust that Jesus died and rose again so you can have full access to God—not as a stranger, but as His beloved son.
4. **Take a Step of Faith** – Go beyond intention. Accept God's gift of relationship through Jesus Christ, and begin a daily journey of walking with Him.
5. **Connect with Community** – Find a group of believers (local church or online)who can encourage and support you in your growing relationship with God.

A Simple Prayer

Get alone and say this out loud:

God, I admit that I've tried to live life on my own terms. I recognize the emptiness that nothing else can fill but You. I believe that Jesus died for me and rose again to give me new life. I invite You into my heart as my Lord and Savior. Help me know You personally, walk with You daily, and trust You with my past, present, and future. Thank You for loving and accepting me. Amen.

This is just the beginning. Each day, choose to draw near to God, listen for His voice, and surrender your plans anew. The more you seek Him, the more you'll find Him—and the more your life will be transformed.

Remember, transformation is a journey, not a one-time event. God is patient, gentle, and committed to your growth. Take your next step today—He's waiting with open arms.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13 | DAY 17

Encouragement for Ongoing Growth and Community

You've begun a journey—perhaps for the first time, perhaps in a fresh way—toward a deeper, more incredible relationship with God. This relationship is a living, growing connection. Just as with any relationship, there will be highs and lows, easy days and difficult ones.

Don't walk alone. Surround yourself with others who are also pursuing God. Healthy community provides encouragement, accountability, and wisdom. We grow best together—sharing victories, bearing burdens, and praying for one another.

Stay engaged in the daily disciplines. There will be days you feel distant or distracted, but persistent time in prayer, worship, and the Word will keep your relationship with God vibrant and fresh.

Celebrate progress, not perfection. Growth is measured not in leaps, but in faithful steps over time. God delights in your desire to know Him and promises to finish the good work He has started in you.

Be open to new adventures with God. The more you trust Him, the more you will see Him leading, providing, and surprising you—often in ways you could never imagine.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

Final Call to Action

Whatever your story, wherever you find yourself today, remember this: God is closer than you think, loves you more than you imagine, and desires relationship above all else. Keep seeking, keep asking, keep trusting. Your life will be a testimony to the power and beauty of knowing God.

Thank you for allowing this book to be part of your journey. Now—take the next step toward an incredible relationship with God!

iMAN
INCREDIBLE MAN

Stay Connected

If you've made it this far—well done.
You've taken a step that most men never do. You've invested in your soul. You've chosen growth over comfort, and that's what makes you *incredible.*

I'm proud of you.

Remember—being an Incredible Man isn't about perfection. It's about showing up, leading with integrity, and pursuing the man God created you to be. The road is long, but you don't have to walk it alone.

You can stay connected with me and the movement at **IncredibleMan.org** — where men like you are growing stronger in faith, leadership, health, and purpose.
Join our community, get coaching, receive weekly encouragement, and keep building a life that's rooted in God and driven by purpose.

I'm honored to walk this journey with you.

With you in the fight,

Pastor Dustin Sample
Founder, *Incredible Man*